(*a*) whether they have received petitions from Arukutty and Shertallai regarding the administrative irregularities of Mr. P. N. Sankara Aiyar, Assistant Excise Commissioner, Arukutty;

(*b*) whether these petitions were forwarded by the Government to the Excise Commissioner and by the latter to Mr. Sankara Aiyar;

(*c*) whether the Government were able to know the truth of the allegations against Mr. Sankara Aiyar contained in the petitions, on account of the same being forwarded to Mr. Sankara Aiyar himself; and

(*d*) whether the Government intend to appoint a committee with a non-official majority, to enquire into and report on the allegations contained in these petitions?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): (*a*) Some petitions reported by the Excise Commissioner to be pseudonymous and containing allegations against the Assistant Excise Commissioner, Mr P. N. Sankara Aiyar, have been received.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) Government have no reason to believe that the forwarding of the petitions to the officer concerned interfered with the Excise Commissioner in ascertaining the truth of the allegations.

(*d*) The answer is in the negative.

Excise Circle largely open to Smuggling.

181. MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) which is the Excise Circle where there is the greatest facility for smuggling; and

(*b*) the length of service, as Assistant Excise Commissioner, of the present incumbent there?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*):

(*a*) In the Excise Commissioner's opinion it is the Alwaye Division.

(*b*) Mr. C. T. Ooman B. A., the present Assistant Excise Commissioner in charge of the Alwaye Division, has been there since the 1st Kumbham, 1095.

Publication of Trade Returns.

182. MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Will the Government be pleased to state whether any trade returns are published in the *Travancore Economic Journal*, and if so, from what date?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): The trade returns do not appear to have been published in the Economic Journal. The cause for the omission is being enquired into.

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[Mr. N. Ramakrishna Pillai.]

PRESIDENT: The term of the present Economic Development Board expires by the end of 1098, and a new Economic Development Board has to be appointed from 1099 onwards. It has been decided, in consultation with the Standing Finance Committee, to fix the strength of the new Economic Development Board at twelve, of whom five will be officials and the rest non-officials. Of the non-officials, four will be elected by the non-official members of the Legislative Council. I therefore request the non-official members to kindly meet as soon as to-day's work is finished and elect four from among themselves or from outside. The choice need not be restricted to the members of the House.

I also request the non-official members of the House to elect three members from among themselves for the Standing Finance Committee of the Legislative Council for the year 1099. Both the elections will be held under the presidency of the Deputy President.

DEMAND FOR GRANTS.—(*Contd.*)

DEMAND XIV—INDUSTRIES.

MR. I. C. CHACKO (*Director of Industries*): Sir, I beg to move for a grant not exceeding Rs. 1·35 lakhs, under Demand XIV—Industries.

Motion 336.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): Sir, I beg to make the following motion:—

336. To omit the allotment of Rs. 1,300 for Geological establishment.

There was a time when we had two State Geologists. Later on, it was found that one of them was sufficient for the purpose of the State. Now it has been found that a State Geologist is not necessary at all. Under these circumstances, I fail to see why there should be an Assistant Geologist with a big establishment under him.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*): I support the motion. Sir, we find, from the Administration Report of 1097, that the Geological Department was reorganised with effect from the 1st Chingam, 1097, and the staff strengthened by the appointment of an Assistant Geologist, a Chemical Assistant and a prospector. The present Director of Industries was the State Geologist before he was appointed to be in charge of the Department of Industries without prejudice to his own duties in April, 1921, when Dr. Barker proceeded to England. I take this opportunity of requesting Mr. Chacko to give us some idea of the geological discoveries made before and after this section of the present Industrial Department has been strengthened by the appointment of the Assistant in 1097. For, it would indeed remove a good deal of misapprehension as regards the nature of the work and the results achieved hitherto by the Geological Department. The information would also enable us to form an opinion as to whether the

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